

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

**Sri VEERENDRA PATIL** (Minister for Public Works).—I beg to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Notification No. GSR. 853 dated 26th February, 1966 (The Mysore Land Revenue Rules, 1965) as required under Section 198 of the Mysore Land Revenue Act, 1964.

## CALLING ATTENTION MOTION

**Re. Grave Situation arising out of the Closure of Minerva and Mysore Textile Mills, Bangalore.**

**Sri K. DEVI AH.**—I call attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Labour to the grave situation arising out of the Closure of Minerva and Mysore textile Mills, Bangalore.

† **Sri D. DEVARAJ URS** (Minister for Labour Transport and Tourism).—In respect of calling attention motion I want to bring to the notice of the House a few facts. The Minerva and Mysore Mills have recently declared a lay out. Nearly 7 thousand workers have been laid off. Before this laying off, the Government had received a memorandum from the Management stating that their financial position was in great difficulty and they were finding it very hard to continue to work the Mills unless they were given some financial help either from the Banks or by Government coming forward to stand as guarantee. That was the position with which they were faced. The Mill products of South Indian Mills were used to be sold in Northern parts of India like Punjab. During those days of conflicts the market of those areas were affected and these Mills in the South could not freely send their goods for sale. That was one thing. Secondly, on account of credit squeeze, these Mills could not get credit in time. As a result of all these things, they have been faced with such a situation that they found it hard to continue the Mills running. This is what the memorandum stated. At the Government level, we will constitute a Committee to go into this question of closure and lay off and retrenchment in these Mills. This Committee, before any such large scale lay off and retrenchment takes place, will sit together with the management and discuss the question whether it would be possible to get over the difficulties that are in the way. We want that Committee to go into this question of Minerva and Mysore Mills and the difficulties they were facing. The Management have stated that apart from financial help and credit facilities that are required by them the level of wages and the D. A. that they are paying are higher as compared with other Mills. The D. A. these Mills are paying are higher than the wage award itself. So, they said, for some time to come they want to see that D. A. is given at a reduced scale that is being given in some other Mills especially the Davangere Mills. The workers were willing to discuss with the Management any other ideas of economising and improving the efficiency of the Mills to run on profitable basis. The Government was willing to

co-operate and give all necessary help to see that some understanding would be brought about between the Management and the workers. On more than one occasion the Management and the workers met the Labour Commissioner and discussed the several methods of economising and running the Mills in a better way. All of a sudden, some 10 days back or so, the Government was informed by the Management that they were resorting to lay off. They represented to the Chief Minister as to why they have decided to lay off and they have sent a copy to me. The very day the Chief Minister was pleased to call a meeting of both the workers' representatives and the Management and in the meeting both of them said said that Government should come to the aid of the Mills in the form of standing guarantee to get the bank credit.

Sir, there even in the petition given to the Government, the management have stated that they have resorted to this lay off with the consent of the labour representatives and this question I raised in the meeting convened by the Chief Minister in his Chambers. There; Sir, it looked as though labour representatives had indirectly given their consent for this lay off and when I specifically mentioned one strange case where the Management says labour representatives have also agreed for temporary lay off for a week or so, none of them protested. That is why I said it was indirectly understood that the labour was one with the management so far as lay off was concerned. Perhaps, it may be because they too realised the difficulties of the management and they thought by resorting to temporary lay off, the management would be enabled to get over the temporary difficulty they were having. I do not know what reasons prompted the labour to give their indirect and tacit consent. But that was the case. The management even went to the extent of saying that they were willing to hand over the Mills to the Government management if they so desire and they were not at all in a position to run the Mills unless the Government came to their help in a large measure by way of standing guarantee to get bank credit. The Government told both the management and labour that Government would be willing to help the mills to run the mills provided they i.e., both the labour and management gave a guarantee that they would not run into such difficulties any more. Supposing we stand guarantee and we give them financial assistance to the tune of some lakhs of rupees and again after 3 months or 5 months if they were to run into the same difficulty, I am afraid no Government would be in a position to go on giving bank guarantees and giving them credit facilities. So, that point was placed before this joint meeting and they were advised to find out ways and means of effecting some economies so that whatever financial help was given to them would be utilised to the best advantage of running the mills. That was agreed to tentatively that day. Sir, the notice of lay off that was given was for a period of one week to start with. I think that week closes by tomorrow or it may end today. In the normal course I expect the mills to start on Monday because tomorrow happens to be a holiday. In the meanwhile, Sir, what has happened is this. Day

(SRI D. DEVARAJ Urs)

before yesterday a good number of workers roughly about 1500 to 2000 came in a procession and they told the police authorities that they wanted to meet the Labour Minister. As soon as I received this information I got the representatives of the Labour to meet me and I discussed the matter. Their apprehension was that the management perhaps would not be in a position to open the mills on Monday. Secondly they also apprehended that the salaries or the wages that were due to the workers for the last month might not be paid in time, that is, well within 10th. According to the Payment of Wages Act, that is the time allowed for the management to clear the wage bills. On these matters they were rather doubtful as to what the management would do and what their stand was. They requested me to persuade management to see that they would open the Mills on Monday and make the payment well within time. I have also advised the representatives of the workers in the meanwhile to think seriously about ways and means of effecting economy if possible, and sit with the management and discuss these matters. I have also reiterated the stand of the Government that the Government will always be willing to help both the management and labour to come to any kind of understanding so far as economy measures are concerned. This is the position.

Today or tomorrow I intend calling the management and advising them to see that the Mills are opened on Monday and with regard to payment to make payments within time. In case the management fails to do this, the Government, I am sorry to say, will have no other option but to proceed against the management as per law laid down.

Mr. SPEAKER.—That is a contingency.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE FOURTH-FIVE YEAR PLAN

(continued)

† ಶ್ರೀ ಹೆಚ್. ಆರ್. ಕೇಶವಮೂರ್ತಿ (ಗಂಡನಿ).—ನಿನ್ನೆ ದಿವಸ ಶರಾವತಿಯ ಎದ್ದುಚ್ಚುಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಬೇರೆ ದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾರದೆ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಕಾದಷ್ಟು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲೂ ಕೂಡ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಬಾವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ರೂರಲ್ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಎದ್ದುಚ್ಚುಕ್ತೆ ದೊರಕುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದೆ. ಈಗ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿರುವುದು ದವಸ, ವ್ಯವಸಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅಡ್ಡಿಕೆ ಕೊಡುವುದು. ರಫ್ತಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ 25 ಕಿಲೋ ವಾಟ್ಸ್ ಪವರ್ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿ ಅದರ ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಕಿಲೋ ವಾಟ್ಸ್ ಪವರ್ ವ್ಯವಸಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ವ್ಯವಸಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಗಮನ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿಧವಾದ ಅನುಕೂಲಗಳನ್ನೂ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ 5 ಸಾವಿರ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ಪಂಚವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಫೈ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. 27 ಸಾವಿರ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳು ಇರತಕ್ಕ ಈ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತಾವು ಈ ರೀತಿ ಮುಂದುವರಿದರೆ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಹಳ್ಳಿಗೂ ಕೂಡ ಎದ್ದುಚ್ಚುಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವೇ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಇವೊತ್ತು ಅಮೇರಿಕಾ ಅಂಥ ಬೇರೆ ದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದರೆ ಅಲ್ಲಿ 99 ಪರ್ಸೆಂಟು ಫಾರಂಗಳು ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಫೈ ಆಗಿವೆ. ಅಂತಹ ಒಂದು ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇರುವಾಗ 4-5ನೇ ಪಂಚವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರೂ ಕೂಡ, ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಪಕ್ಷ 75 ಪರ್ಸೆಂಟು ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳನ್ನು ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಫೈ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ನಾನು ನೂಡಿಸಿ ಕೊಡುತ್ತೇನೆ.